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with this book david de vaus has written one of the best general research methods textbooks around the use of different types of research design as the point of departure is a different and very helpful approach to take especially since many textbooks confuse issues of method and design the author outlines with great clarity a wide variety of issues including testing theories causation data analysis and the main considerations involved in using the different research designs covered both students and their instructors will find this an extremely valuable well written book professor alan bryman university of loughborough a wonderful opportunity for research design students and practitioners to think more about the planning and process of research design forum for qualitative social research this book is intended to show social science students the importance of attending to design issues when undertaking social research one of the main problems in

doing practical research is that design and structure are inappropriate for the uses of research they often do not support the conclusions that are drawn from it several research methods books focus on data collection strategy and statistical analysis while these issues are pertinent this book argues that the core of research methods is the structure and design of the research the book provides students with a clear understanding of the importance of research design and its place in the research process describes the main types of research designs in social research explains the logic and purposes of design to enable students to evaluate particular research strategies equips students with the design skills to operate in real world research situations the book is divided into five parts part one explores issues about types of research research concepts research questions causality and basic issues in the design process the remaining four parts focus on different types of research design experimental longitudinal cross sectional and case study methods are clearly and systematically examined and their strengths and weaknesses are described the result is a one stop critical guide to design in social research that students and researchers will find invaluable

david de vaus classic text surveys in social research provides clear advice on how to plan conduct and analyse social surveys it emphasises the links between theory and research the logic and interpretation of statistics and the practices of social research this sixth edition has been completely revised and updated and contains new examples data and extensive lists of web resources as well as explaining how to conduct good surveys de vaus shows how to become a critical consumer of research he argues that the logic of surveys and statistics is simply an extension of the logic we use in everyday life analysis however requires creativity and imagination rather than the application of sterile mechanical procedures the prime goal of research should be to gain accurate understanding and as a researcher use methods and techniques which enhance understanding de vaus advocates researchers use the method rather than letting the method use you surveys in social research is essential reading for students and researchers working with surveys it assumes no background in statistical analysis and gives you the tools you need to come to grips with this often challenging field of work

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